AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:

specifying nodes present within a communication zone of a mobile node;

counting the number of nodes present within each overlapping region between a communication zone of the mobile node and communication zones of each of the specified nodes; and

selecting, as a candidate node for next communication with the mobile node for hard handover in a non-cellular system, the specified node in the communication zone of which the largest number of nodes have been counted, the specified node being selected by the mobile node.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:

specifying neighbor nodes present within a communication zone of a mobile node;

specifying neighbor nodes for each specified neighbor node of the mobile node that are present within a communication zone for a corresponding one of the specified neighbor nodes of the mobile node;

counting the number of specified neighbor nodes that are within the communication zone of the corresponding one of the specified neighbor nodes of the mobile node; and

selecting, as a candidate node for next communication with the mobile node for hard handover in a non-cellular system, the specified neighbor node of the mobile node having the largest number of specified neighbor nodes that are within its communication zone, the specified node being selected by the mobile node.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the selection is not performed if the specified node in the communication zone of which the largest number of nodes have been counted is the same as a node with which the mobile node is currently in communication.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 3, wherein when there are a plurality of specified nodes in the communication zone of which the largest number has been counted, an arbitrary one node is selected.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the mobile node performs said specifying, said counting, and said selecting at predetermined periods.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 2, wherein the mobile node performs said specifying the neighbor nodes present within the communication zone of the mobile node, said specifying the neighbor nodes present within the communication zones of the neighbor nodes, said counting, and said selecting at predetermined periods.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined period is changed in accordance with a movement speed of the mobile node.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined period is changed in accordance with an arrangement density of the specified nodes.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the specified nodes are mobile nodes.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 2, wherein the specified nodes are mobile nodes.

11. (CANCELED).

12. (CANCELED).

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the specified nodes are uniformly dispersedly arranged.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 2, wherein the specified

nodes are uniformly dispersedly arranged.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a wireless transmitter; and

a processor operable to specify nodes present within a communication zone of a mobile node which moves among a plurality of nodes dispersedly arranged; count the number of nodes present within each overlapping region between a communication zone of one of the mobile node and communication zones of each of the specified nodes; and select, as a candidate node for next communication with the mobile node, the specified node in the communication zone of which the largest number of nodes have been counted, wherein the candidate node is selected by the mobile node for hard handover in a non-cellular system.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the apparatus is the mobile node which moves among a plurality of nodes.

17. (CANCELED).

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the specified nodes are mobile nodes.